

COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting: in-person at Center for Community Health and through Webex online platform
September 3, 2025

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>EXCUSED</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
Amy Roark, Secretary	Lilly Pidhainyi	Clover Spears	Abby Molloy
Brittini Lasseigne		Nickeia Hunter	Kayla Williams
Brondalyn Clark			Nooreen Ebrahim
Diana Perez			
Emily Wilson			
Faye Solomone			
Katie Favela			
Megan Mulsoff			
Melanie Green, Vice Chair			
Rob Perkins, Chair			
Sandra Zavala-Ortega			

Guests: Dale Whitley (Council for the Homeless), Glen Yung (Clark County Council), Ian Alger and Samantha Whitley (City of Vancouver)

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Approval of July Minutes

A motion to amend the July meeting minutes was made by Rob Perkins and seconded by Amy Roark. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the July minutes as amended was approved unanimously.

III. Point in Time Count Presentation

The Point in Time Count is a requirement of HUD and Washington Department of Commerce to count all individuals that meet the HUD definition of literal homelessness. The 2025 count was held on January 30. The two main data sources are the sheltered individual count and the unsheltered individual count. Counts of sheltered individuals were captured using the Homeless Management Information System, and counts of unsheltered individuals were captured via street count, food bank surveys, and the Project Homeless Connect Event.

This year, 1,530 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness in Clark County, with 742 people being unsheltered, 560 in emergency shelter, and 228 in transitional housing. About 29% of those surveyed were chronically homeless, 38% identified as a person of color, and 10% were survivors of domestic abuse. All reported statistics showed increases since 2024.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Why is the increase in homelessness so high when new housing infrastructure is present?

A: The new housing options are not necessarily affordable, with the average unit rent in the county being about \$1,700/month.

Q: What is the cause for the increase in homeless individuals over the age of 62?

A: There is no one specific answer, and all individuals surveyed were asked to provide the primary reason they believe they are unhoused. In general, the homeless population in Clark County is aging.

Q: How does Point in Time collect data on where individuals come from?

A: Individuals are asked to provide their last permanent zip code, and Council for the Homeless uploads this data to a map in their website for public viewing.

C: When households make more money, they lose access to vital services like childcare, food stamps, and more.

C: United Way has data which provides estimated survival budgets for people in different areas.

C: CAAB members were encouraged to check out the Housing Affordable Index.

IV. July 2024-June 2025 Outcomes Report

Quarterly reports from quarters 1-4 of fiscal year 2025 for the Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) and Community Action Program (CAP) were presented to the board. Staff provided an overview of proposed goals and the percentage of said goal achieved by the CAP and HCRS contracting agencies. Unspent state and local funds have been returned, and a portion of the returned funds will be allocated to FY2026 programs. Updates to the Q4 report are anticipated to be made, and the CAAB will be notified when this occurs.

Across programs, participant satisfaction was reported at 91.4% with a positive overall experience, and 1,695 volunteers provided \$595,359 worth of volunteer time. A total of 273 grievances were reported, with 44% of programs receiving at least one grievance. Of the 273 grievances received, 191 were able to be resolved. Staff are working with Council for the Homeless to pull ethnicity data from HMIS.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Is demographic data tracked on people who report grievances? Is there categorization of the types of grievances?

A: This information is not tracked currently but will look into doing so in the future. CHG funded programs will require tracking of these statistics as of July 1, 2025, which will be reported to Commerce.

V. City of Vancouver Affordable Housing and Homelessness Updates

The Rental Registration RFP for software vendors is closed and vendor selection is underway, with the launch date of the program being January 1, 2026.

The Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) homeownership award of \$500,000 went to Habitat for Humanity for a 32-unit cottage cluster at NE 132nd Avenue. This project is currently underway and is estimated to be completed by late 2026/early 2027.

The City of Vancouver is submitting their 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), which shows how \$2.7 million dollars in federal funding was invested into the community. The report is available online for review and public comment.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Are the number of people assisted by homelessness services reported in the CAPER all unique individuals?

A: They are not unduplicated, but it includes all people helped by services and events in Vancouver.

Q: How many applicants were there for the AHF homeownership award?

A: There were two applicants total, the other being Proud Ground.

VI. Task Force Updates

Legislative Task Force:

- There is a free event on September 6 that CAAB members can attend to learn about advocacy efforts. Staff will share details with the board.

Community Needs Assessment (CNA) Task Force:

- The CNA survey has been finalized and will be translated prior to sharing with the community.
- Outreach efforts are being discussed, the biggest partner for outreach currently being Clark County Food Bank.

Teambuilding Workgroup:

- The first meeting for this task force has been canceled and will be rescheduled.

VII. Severe Weather Response Request for Application

This Request for Application (RFA) is focusing on strengthening HCRS during severe weather. It will be funded through leftover House Bill funding and through local reserve funding and will be allocated to programs that already receive county funding. There are 5 eligible categories for this RFA: Severe Weather Planning, Winter Shelter Staffing Support, Cold Weather Response, Hot Weather Response, and Supply Distribution. Applications will be accepted from nonprofits, tribal governments, and local jurisdictions and public agencies.

The timeline for this RFA began in August with a pre-submittal workshop and will end on November 1 when contracts begin. The Clark County Council will approve agency awards on October 21.

There is an RFA guidance document that the CAAB will be provided which outlines application categories, eligible activities, scoring guides, and more. This guide is the same document that applicants receive. Staff reviewed this document with the board and encouraged members that are part of the Severe Weather RFA Scoring Committee to attend technical assistance sessions and reach out to staff with any questions.

Staff asked for volunteers from the CAAB for the Severe Weather RFA scoring Committee. Currently Amy Roark, Faye Salomone, and Emily Wilson have volunteered. Diana Perez intends to volunteer on behalf of the Ending Community Homeless Organization (ECHO).

Questions and Comments:

C: The background of this RFA is meant to prevent a lack of resources during harsh weather. ECHO did an after-action review and determined that having funding for severe weather programs is important to prevent issues moving forward.

Q: Are faith-based organizations able to apply for funding?

A: They cannot apply on their own, but there are Memorandums of Understanding that can be held between non-profits and churches to use their facilities, charging a fee for each bed they have available.

Q: Is part of the scoring based on accessibility of the service site?

A: Yes. Public Health has created a dashboard related to severe weather hotspots.

C: Faith-based organizations provide many volunteers for these programs.

Q: Is the amount of funding per category flexible?

A: Yes, but the allocated amounts are based on amounts that have previously been spent by Council for the Homeless.

VIII. CAAB Bylaw Revisions

Staff recently received guidance from the Clark County Council to have one Public Office Representative which will be held by a Clark County Council member.

A motion to approve this Bylaw change was made by Amy Roark, which was seconded by Emily Wilson. Motion approved unanimously.

Questions and Comments:

Q: How will this position be elected and what is the timeline for their appointment?

A: They will be elected by the County Council the same way the Vancouver City Council CAAB member is elected. The timeline for the election is up to the County Council.

IX. Open Forum

None presented.

X. Other Business

CAP Report to the Community

- This report used to be done prior to COVID and will be brought back this year. Staff is currently drafting the newest edition of this report, and it will be presented to the board at the November meeting.

January Meeting Discussion

- There are 8 hours in January that the CAAB has to discuss whatever topics they choose. If members have an idea of what they would like to discuss, please let staff know.
 - o Diana Perez thought that a system-wide analysis to identify areas of conflict may be beneficial for the CAAB.
 - o Katie Favela suggested having collaboration between ECHO and CAAB members at the January meeting.
 - o Has the County looked into the gap in county funding for mobile response teams that Columbia River Mental Health previously provided. Is there still funding for this?
 - Staff will look into this and provide any information they are able to.

Vancouver Housing Authority Public Comment Opportunity

- On September 3 from 5-7 p.m., the Vancouver Housing Authority will be hosting a town hall at the Vancouver Public Library in the Columbia Room.

Next Meeting: November 5, 2025, 9-11 a.m., CFCH and Webex

Meeting adjourned.



Amy Roark, Board Secretary

11/06/25